

Message Text

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10

ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 EB-11 IGA-02 INR-10 RSR-01 RSC-01

COME-00 /067 W

----- 045222

R 111627 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5133

INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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E. O. 11 652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID, DM

SUBJ: BOHICON- PARAKOU MICROWAVE LINK 625- H-001

JOINT EMBASSY/ REDSO MESSAGE

DEPT PASS AID/ W; - BIDJAN FOR REDSO; NIAMEY FOR ADO

REF: (A) COTONOU 0592; (B) COTONOU 0322

1. REDSO REP AGAIN MET WITH DAHOMEAN OFFICIALS MAY 9 RE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION. THINGS ARE NOW MOVING AND WE FACE TWO PROBLEMS.

2. FIRST, AS INDICATED IN REF (B) AND PREVIOUS MESSAGES, PRESENT GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO EXAMINE WITH FINE TOOTH COMB EVERY PHASE OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROJECTS, PARTICULARLY LOANS, SIGNED WITH PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. IN THIS SPECIFIC CASE, OPT, AS TECHNICAL OFFICE, IS CONSTANTLY BEING ASKED FOR DETAILS, EXPLANATIONS AND JUSTIFICATIONS, AND IS NOT IN POSITION TO TAKE CERTAIN IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS ITSELF. IN VIEW VERY CAUTIOUS MINISTRY APPROACH, ACTIONS ARE BEING DELAYED AND OPT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO WRITE PREQUALIFIED FIRMS. DIRECTOR OF OPT BOURAIMA NOT DUE BACK IN COTONOU BEFORE MAY 22 AND NO DECISION WILL BE MADE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL UNTIL HE PERSONALLY HAS OPPORTUNITY OF AGAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISCUSSING MATTER WITH MINISTER.

3. POTENTIALLY EVEN MORE TROUBLESOME IS OPT BELIEF THAT AID ESTIMATES FOR PROJECT COST ARE EXCESSIVE AND THAT LOAN OF \$1.9 MILLION PLUS \$100,000 DAHOMEAN FINANCED LOCAL COSTS SHOULD COVER MOST OF COSTS OF MICROWAVE SYSTEM FROM BOHICON TOR MALANVILLE. OPT POINTS TO FIRM COST PROJECTIONS CONTAINED IN RECENT ITU TECHNICAL STUDY, TABLES 5-8 AND 5 9, WHICH ESTIMATE TOTAL COST PROJECT BOHICON- PARAKOU AT \$1.176 MILLION AND FOR BOHICON- PARAKOU- MALANVILLE AT \$2.3 MILLION, INCLUDING EQUIPMENT, INSTALLATION, LOCAL COSTS, ENGINEERING, SPARE PARTS, CONTINGENCIES, ETC. OPT BELIEVES ITU ESTIMATES ACCURATE AND THEREFORE FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN OR RECOMMEND THAT PROJECT GO FORWARD WITH AID FINANCING IF U. S . COSTS ARE SO MUCH MORE THAN ITU ESIMATE.

4. AS AID/ W AWARE, WE HAVE ALWAYS INDICATED TO DAHOMEANS THAT PROJECT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AT LOWEST POSSIBLE COST CONSISTENT WITH REQUIREMENTS AND THANT LOAN AMOUNT DID NOT NECESSARILY MEAN PROJECT WOULD COST THAT MUCH. ON OTHER HAND, WE HAVE BEEN IN NO POSITION TO ASSURE THAT 1973-1974 SOTS WOULD BE LESS THAN ORIGINAL ESTIMATES WHICH OBVIOUSLY MADE PROVISION FOR PRICE ESCALATIONS AND OTHER CONTINGENCIES.

5. IN VIEW ABOVE SITUATION, REQUEST LUBIN/ HOTVEDT REVIEW ITU ESTIMATES AND INFORM US, REDSO AND ADO ASAP LATEST AID/ W ESTIMATES OF PROJECT COST, AND PROVIDE FULL EXPLANATION IF THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES FROM ITU BREAKDOWN.

RYM OPT ALSO MENTIONED THEY MIGHT HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO GOVERNMENT WHY PREPARATION OF SPECS, BID DOCUMENTS, IFB'S, AS WELL AS SUPERIVSORY ENGINEERING COULD NOT BE DONE BY ACRES INTERTEL OF OTTAWA WHICH DID THE ITU STUDY IF FAHOMEY IS ABLE TO OBTAIN UN FINANCING FOR THIS ENGINEERING WORK. OPT POINTS OUT THAT AS ENGLISH SPEAKING CANADIAN FIRM, ACRESS FULLY FAMILIAR WITH U. S. EQUIPMENT AND COULD PRESUMABLY PREPARE APPROPRIATE IFB'S INTENDED FOR U. S. SUPPLIERS. OPT GAVE NO INDICATION UN FINANCING AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME. REQUEST AID/ W VIEWS THIS OPT SUGGESTION.

ANDERSON

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